

In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0044] with the following amended paragraph:

[0044] The communication links 11, 214 may be provided by the local telephone company 215 or may be provided by using other communications companies and facilities, either in conjunction with the local telephone company 215 or independent of the local telephone company 215~~45~~, such as cellular telephone service, satellite link service, private carriers, the Internet via an Internet Services Provider (ISP), two-way cable service, asynchronous transmission mode (ATM) lines, etc. Various protocols are used on these lines, such as, ATM, Frame Relay, ISDN, ADSL, SS7. Generally, the lines 218 and local telephone company 215 will constitute at least a part of the communications link 11. The communications links used and the protocols used on the communications links are not critical.

Please replace paragraph [0046] with the following amended paragraph:

[0046] A remote access controller 225 is connected to the PBX 216

via lines 223, and also connected to the communications lines 224. This controller 225 may be, for example, a server, an Internet gateway, a computer-telephony integration (CTI) server, a computer programmed to serve as a remote access controller, etc. The controller 225 is preferably connected directly to the telephone company via one or more telephone lines 218C-~~218B~~, at least one of which lines 218C~~218B~~ is preferably a direct line to a local Internet Service Provider (ISP) 230 which provides an Internet communications link. Preferably, the controller 225 is permanently "logged-on" to the local ISP 230. Thus, the controller 225 can directly and immediately receive incoming communications over the Internet via the ISP 230, and can directly and immediately initiate communications over the Internet, rather than having to communicate via the PBX 216. Therefore, via the Internet, the controller 225 may connect with, and exchange information, data, and instructions with, the portable communications device 10. The connection between the controller 225 and the portable communications device 10 is preferably Internet-based for both voice and data communications.